

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 07317 111721Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD, SW

SUBJECT: TCWP MARCH 8: DISCUSSION OF SWEDISH FOOT-
WEAR IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

DURING MARCH 8 TCWP SWEDISH DEL PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFOR-
MATION IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS PUT BY US AND OTHER DELS:

1. QUOTAS: GLOBAL QUOTA HAD BEEN DIVIDED UP IN JANU-
ARY AMONG IMPORTERS (AND REPS OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS
SELLING DIRECTLY TO RETAILERS) ON BASIS OF THEIR
IMPORTS OVER THE 2 YEAR PERIOD ENDING MID-1975. 10
PERCENT OF QUOTA HAD BEEN RESERVED FOR NEW IMPORTERS.
NO PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE FOR INCREASING QUOTAS IN
RESPONSE TO GROWTH IN DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OR INFLATION.

2. DURATION OF MEASURES: SWEDISH DEL SAID NO TIME-
TABLE COULD BE GIVEN FOR PHASING OUT OR ELIMINATION OF
MEASURES. A SPECIAL COMMISSION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED
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PAGE 02 OECD P 07317 111721Z

TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEMS OF THE FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY, BUT

NO DEADLINE HAD BEEN SET FOR ITS REPORT. WHEN US DEL CONTRASTED OPACITY OF SWEDISH PROCEDURES TO THOSE USED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY US AND AUSTRALIA, SWEDISH DEL COULD ONLY ASSURE GROUP THAT INTERNAL STUDY OF INDUSTRY WOULD NOT TAKE YEARS BUT WOULD PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. NATIONAL SECURITY JUSTIFICATION: IN RESPONSE TO PRODDING BY US AND OTHERS, SWEDISH DEL GAVE ELABORATE EXPLANATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY RATIONALE USED TO JUSTIFY NEED FOR IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. HE SAID SWEDISH PRODUCTION WAS ALREADY BELOW MINIMUM WARTIME NEEDS. UNDER HYPOTHESIS OF 3 YEAR TOTAL BLOCKADE OF FOOTWEAR IMPORTS, MINIMUM SWEDISH REQUIREMENTS WOULD RISE FROM 3.9 MILLION TO 11.4 MILLION PAIRS PER YEAR. PROJECTED SWEDISH PRODUCTION CAPACITY UNDER THESE CONDITIONS COULD GROW FROM 3.7 MILLION TO 8.3 MILLION PAIRS PER YEAR, BUT EVEN THIS RESULT WAS PREDICATED ON ASSUMPTION THAT SOME FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY EXISTED IN SWEDEN TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR ADDITIONAL SHIFT WORKERS. SWEDISH DEL SAID THAT WITHOUT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS INDUSTRY WOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED ALTOGETHER, AND THAT EVEN WITH RESTRICTIONS FOREIGN SUPPLIERS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE 70-75 PERCENT OF DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION.

4. EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAM: SWEDISH DEL MINIMIZED IMPORTANCE OF FUNDS ALLOCATED TO EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAM FOR SHOE AND TANNING INDUSTRY, STATING THESE WERE QUITE ORDINARY PROGRAMS OF TYPE RUN BY VIRTUALLY ALL COUNTRIES.
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